(a) whether Government have received proposals from Gujarat Government for conversion of MG/NG lines into BG ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) which MG/NG lines of Gujarat State are to be converted into BG lines during the Eighth Five Year Plan period and by when the remaining MG/NG lines are likely to be converted to BG lines ;

(d) by when the gauge conversion work of Rajkot-Veraval MG Railway line would be taken up; and

(e) by when the said work would be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposals have been received for conversion of the following lines :

1. Rajkot-Veraval
2. Gandhidham-Bhuj
3. Surendranagar-Bhavnagar
4. Dharangadhra-Kuda

(c) and (d) Conversion of Rajkot-Veravl MG railway line into BG has been included in the proposed Railway Budget 94-95. At present there is no proposal for conversion of the other lines.

(e) The work will progress as per availability of resources in the coming years.

Provision on the Budget for completion of Nadiad-Kapadvanj M.G. line

1233. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have made very less provision in the budget for the year 1993-94 for Nadiad-Kapadvanj M. G. line and its extension up to Modasa (New B.G. lines);

(b) when this project was sanctioned and what are the reasons of slow progress in this section;

(c) whether Gujarat Government has requested the Central Government to allot sufficient funds for this project in the current year; and

(d) by when the remaining work would be completed in the above project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1978-79. Gauge conversion work has been completed. Work on construction of new lines from Kapadvanj to Modasa has not made significant progress due to low operational priority and constraint of resources.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In the coming years as per availability of resources.

Metro Rail Project Calcutta

1234. SHRI ASHOK MITRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the magnitude of the economic, social and environmental losses to the citizens of Calcutta on account of the metro rail project being elongated beyond twenty years ;

(b) whether it is agreeable to set up an expert group to quantify these losses; and

(c) the nature of compensation, if any, Government are contemplating to offer to the people of Calcutta for the heavy economic and social cost they have incurred and are incurring on account of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) The delay in the Metro Railway Project, Calcutta beyond twenty years has been caused by various factors including considerable delay in getting possession of the site at various locations. However, most of these problems have now been resolved and the project is now progressing speedily and expected to be completed by December, 1995.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no such proposal. However, the running of trains over an additional six block sections would be introduced during 1994-95